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The Urban District of Esher



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the Year Ended 31st December

1956

Urban District of Esher

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Health and
Sanitary Conditions
for the Year 1956

JAMES BRYAN MORWOOD, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REGINALD F. WHEELER, F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. F. A. SOAN

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR F. E. HAWTHORNE

COUNCILLOR MISS W. E. BISIKER

COUNCILLOR R. H. MONTAGUE

„ V. J. BULLETT

„ D. d'E. PANRUCKER

„ S. R. HILL

„ E. ROYSTON PIKE

„ MRS. J. M. L. HISCOCKS

„ D. H. PYBUS

„ N. H. JONES

Ex-Officio Members :

COUNCILLOR D. MOON, M.C., J.P. (*Chairman of the Council*).

COUNCILLOR R. W. JUDGE (*Vice-Chairman of the Council*).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Personnel

Medical Officer of Health :

*J. B. MORWOOD, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

*REGINALD F. WHEELER, F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector :

*JOHN C. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A.

Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

*FRANK L. BARKER, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I. Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.
Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and in Sanitary Science.

Nurse :

MISS V. DAWSON, S.R.N.

Clerks :

MISS D. ARNELL

MRS. A. COLEMAN

MISS O. BROWN
(resigned 3. 6. 56)

MISS J. JACKSON (appointed 7. 8. 56)

Pests Officer :

R. J. CLARKE

Mortuary Keeper and Disinfecter :

J. H. DOLLEY

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

FREDERICK EDWARDS

Public Analyst :

D. D. MOIR, M.SC., F.R.I.C.

* Contribution of salary made from Exchequer

Urban District of Esher

COUNCIL OFFICES,
ESHER.

June, 1957.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular No. 19/56.

The health of the district remains good. Once again there have been no cases of diphtheria and it is now more than 10½ years since the last case occurred.

The situation with regard to tuberculosis remains satisfactory. The notification rate is almost as low as last year's low record, and the death rate is even lower than it was in 1955.

An important step was taken in the prevention of poliomyelitis with the introduction of immunisation. There was a very good response and there is evidence that immunisation gives a high degree of protection.

Twenty males and three females died from cancer of the lung. In 1947 the Medical Research Council planned a statistical study of smoking habits in connection with cancer of the lung and the resultant figures, which appeared three years later, showed a pronounced statistical association between smoking (heavy cigarette smoking over long periods) and lung cancer. Evidence has since accumulated which confirms this association.

In my opinion it is essential that parents, teachers and all who have the interest of our youth at heart should make every effort to discourage young people from developing the habit of smoking.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Council for their support during the year and the staff whose co-operation has contributed greatly to the efficiency of the department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. MORWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid. 1956)								54,700
Number of inhabited houses—end of 1956—according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,364
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,178,926
Product of a penny rate 1956/1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£4,900

Extracts from Vital Statistics :—

						Total	M.	F.
Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	735	377	358
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...		362	350
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...		15	8

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—13.4.
Corrected birth rate—13.8.

						Total	M.	F.
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	9	4	5
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	8	4	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—12.1.

						Total	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	597	295	302

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—10.9.

Corrected death rate—10.4.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	—

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	19.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	16.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	86.9

BIRTHS

During the year 735 live births were registered, this being 11 more than last year's total. The rate per 1,000 population was 13.8 compared with the rate of 15.7 for England and Wales.

Of the total number, 23 or 3.1% were illegitimate.

DEATHS

During the year 597 deaths were registered, 20 more than in 1955. The death rate was 10.4 per 1,000 compared with the rate of 11.7 for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate was 19.0 per 1,000 live births and compares with the rate of 23.8 for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	2	1	3
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4	10
11. " " lung, bronchus ...	20	3	23
12. " " breast	—	11	11
13. " " uterus	—	7	7
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	29	27	56
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	3	6
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	53	40	93
18. Coronary disease, angina	44	33	77
19. Hypertension with heart disease	8	9	17
20. Other heart disease	32	55	87
21. Other circulatory disease	15	29	44
22. Influenza	2	2	4
23. Pneumonia	18	11	29
24. Bronchitis	14	13	27
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	4	—	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	4	8
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	3	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—	6
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined discases ...	15	32	47
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
34. All other accidents	6	2	8
35. Suicide	4	4	8
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total	295	302	597

DEATHS.—AGE GROUPS

Under		1—4	5—14	15—24	25—34	35—44	45—54	55—64	64—79	80 & over	Total										
1																					
MALES	8	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	12	...	30	...	52	...	122	...	65	...	295		
FEMALES	6	...	—	...	2	...	1	...	6	...	5	...	19	...	24	...	119	...	120	...	302
TOTAL	14	...	1	...	4	...	3	...	7	...	17	...	49	...	76	...	241	...	185	...	597

SUMMARY OF BIRTH, INFANT MORTALITY
AND DEATH RATES FOR THE PAST
SIX YEARS

In District	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
Hospitals outside district	...	...	...	...	...	...	251
Died in other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	597

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER
ONE YEAR OF AGE

Acute suppurative bronchitis : 2 months; 4 months.
 Atelectasis : 13 hours.
 Cerebral haemorrhage : 3 days; 1 week.
 Congenital heart disease : 7 months.
 Gastro enteritis : 2 weeks.
 Pneumonia : 2 weeks; 2 months; 3 months.
 Prematurity : 4 hours; 1 day (2); 5 days.

MORTUARY

The number of bodies received in the public mortuary was as follows :—
 For post-mortem examination and inquest ... 7
 For post-mortem examination only ... 57

TOTAL ... 64

Year	Births	Infant Mortality	Deaths
1951	12.6	...	11.1
1952	12.9	...	10.4
1953	13.2	...	10.2
1954	13.3	...	9.7
1955	13.9	...	9.8
1956	13.8	...	10.4

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956

DISEASES	Under	AGE GROUPS										Over	
		Total	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44		45-64	65
Acute encephalitis ..	1	1	1	2	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ..	9	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia ..	14	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	2	—	2	3
Dysentery ..	149	1	5	1	17	14	90	7	2	9	1	2	—
Erysipelas ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Food poisoning ..	13	—	—	—	—	—	8	5	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	81	1	2	3	14	6	48	4	1	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ..	41	—	—	—	3	5	29	2	—	1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—respiratory ..	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	11	5	8	2
Tuberculosis—other ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Whooping cough ..	32	3	—	4	3	3	16	—	1	1	—	—	1
TOTAL ..	380	6	8	9	38	29	195	23	10	31	9	16	6

WARDS

DISEASES	Total	Claygate	Cobham	East Molesey	Esher	Hinchley Wood	Long Ditton	Oxshott	Stoke D'Abernon	Thames Ditton	West Molesey
Acute encephalitis ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ..	9	2	1	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	—
Acute pneumonia ..	14	1	—	3	3	—	1	4	1	1	—
Dysentery ..	149	1	13	9	6	2	36	—	—	78	4
Erysipelas ..	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Food poisoning ..	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—
Measles ..	81	1	11	2	8	2	8	44	3	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ..	41	3	6	9	2	—	—	4	1	3	6
Tuberculosis—respiratory ..	29	4	2	6	5	1	6	1	—	2	7
Tuberculosis—other ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Whooping cough ..	32	6	2	1	8	—	6	—	—	9	—
TOTAL ..	380	19	36	32	38	8	59	68	6	95	19

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Acute Poliomyelitis.—Nine cases of acute poliomyelitis occurred during the year, 7 of which were paralytic and 2 non-paralytic. The majority of cases were in children under 13 years of age.

Immunisation against this disease was commenced in May and 170 children between the ages of 2 and 9 were immunised during the year. There were no reactions and it is hoped that enough vaccine will be available to immunise a great many more children next year.

Tuberculosis.—The death rate from this disease has fallen from 0.36 per 1,000 population in 1947 to an average of 0.04 during the past three years.

The notification rate of tuberculosis has also fallen in the past few years to the figure of 0.53 per 1,000 population in 1956.

These figures are most satisfactory and indicate that the preventive measures taken against this disease are beginning to prove effective.

B.C.G. vaccination of school children in the 13 year age group was continued by the school health service.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1956

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Other		Respiratory		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
65 upwards	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	17	1	2	2	1	—	—

Diphtheria.—No cases occurred in the district for the tenth successive year. Six hundred and eight-one children were immunised against the disease and 921 were given reinforcing doses.

It is hoped that the popularity of whooping cough immunisation will lead to an improvement in the number of children protected against diphtheria, as a combined vaccine is used.

Dysentery.—There were 149 cases of dysentery of the mild sonne type, chiefly accounted for by two outbreaks in infants' schools. This is one of the most infectious of diseases and its incidence is increasing throughout the country as a whole. Extensive investigations are carried out immediately a case is notified and every possible action to prevent the spread of the disease is taken.

Food Poisoning.—There were two outbreaks of food poisoning. One of these, involving 13 children, was due to staphylococcus aureus. Re-heated sausage and potato was the food responsible for this outbreak. The other outbreak, involving 127 children, was due to clostridium welchii. The food responsible in this case was frozen Australian meat which had been minced 24 hours before being cooked. The symptoms in this outbreak were so mild that none of these children were notified.

Measles.—There were 81 cases; two of these were admitted to hospital. Very little can be done to prevent the spread of this disease, but the use of antibiotics has greatly minimised the danger of complications.

Scabies.—During 1956 eight persons from four families received treatment. All these persons showed definite lesions.

Scarlet Fever.—Forty-one cases occurred; all of a very mild nature. Most of these were nursed at home, but five cases were removed to hospital.

Whooping Cough.—The number of cases notified was 32; two of these were admitted to hospital. An intensive effort is being continued to immunise all babies with the combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactic well before their first birthday. Six hundred and thirty-two children were immunised against the disease and 203 were given reinforcing doses.

Vaccination.—Details of the number of vaccinations carried out during the year are as follows :—

Number of primary vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	535
Number of re-vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	79

Verminous Conditions.—Three cases of infestation by the head louse from one family were referred to the Department and received treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS

<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
Respiratory		Other		Respiratory		Other	
Year	Estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 population	No.	Rate per 1,000 population	No.	Rate per 1,000 population
1945	44,060	41	0.93	11	0.24	22	0.49
1946	48,140	31	0.64	7	0.14	16	0.33
1947	49,610	43	0.86	8	0.16	18	0.36
1948	50,790	37	0.73	8	0.15	7	0.14
1949	51,280	49	0.95	6	0.11	16	0.31
1950	51,500	28	0.54	2	0.04	10	0.19
1951	51,210	36	0.70	10	0.19	7	0.14
1952	51,060	49	0.96	6	0.12	10	0.19
1953	51,610	34	0.66	10	0.19	5	0.09
1954	52,470	27	0.51	5	0.09	0	0.00
1955	53,630	24	0.44	7	0.13	3	0.05
1956	54,700	29	0.53	3	0.05	3	0.05

At the end of the year the following number of cases remained on the tuberculosis register :—

	Respiratory		Other	
Males	...	...	...	13
Females	...	...	...	23
Total	272	36	—	—

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED YEARLY DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Acute encephalitis	—	—	3	1	—	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	4	6	—	19	9
Acute pneumonia	60	25	31	18	16	14
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	69	45	—	3	5	149
Erysipelas	10	20	7	6	6	4
Food poisoning	2	7	2	1	1	13
Malaria	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	986	194	739	213	327	81
Meningococcal infection	1	1	1	—	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	1	—	—	1
Paratyphoid fever	1	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1	6	21	11	7	2
Scarlet fever	39	107	45	36	14	41
Tuberculosis (all forms)	46	55	44	32	31	32
Typhoid fever	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping cough	227	84	69	45	30	32

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED MONTHLY DURING 1956

Month	Acute encephalitis	Acute poliomyelitis	Acute pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food poisoning	Measles	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Paratyphoid fever	Puerperal pyrexia	Scarlet fever	Tuberculosis— respiratory	Tuberculosis— other	Whooping cough	Total
January	—	1	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	2	1	3	2	—	15
February	—	—	4	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	11	1	—	2	28
March	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	10	2	—	—	16
April	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	9
May	—	—	—	2	—	13	37	1	—	—	10	4	—	—	66
June	—	1	—	14	—	—	17	—	1	—	5	5	1	2	46
July	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	5	—	6	21
August	—	4	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	14
Sept.	—	—	1	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	45
October	—	1	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	12	22
Nov.	—	1	1	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	64
Dec.	—	1	1	27	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	34
TOTAL	1	9	14	149	4	13	81	1	1	2	41	29	3	32	380

LIST OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CLINICS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND IMMUNISATION

North-Central Division of the County (Divisional Medical Officer, Health Centre, Grange Road, Kingston-on-Thames. Tel.: Kingston 7261)

CLAYGATE : Church Rooms, Church Road (not on telephone).

General Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare	Mondays, 1.30 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination ..	4th Monday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	Mondays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

COBHAM : Village Hall, Anyards Road (not on telephone).

General Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare	Thursdays, 1.30 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination ..	4th Thursday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

EAST MOLESEY : The Clinic, St. Mary's Road (Tel.: Molesey 4220).

Maternity and Child Welfare ..	Wednesdays, 1.30 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination ..	1st Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

EAST MOLESEY : W.V.S. Office, 144-150, Walton Road (not on telephone).

Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
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ESHER : King George's Hall, High Street (Tel.: Esher 4092).

General Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare	1st and 3rd Thursdays, 1.30 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination ..	3rd Thursday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2.15 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.

HINCHLEY WOOD : E.F.S. Motors Ltd., Showroom, 32, Station Approach

Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	1st Monday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
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(not on telephone).

LONG DITTON : Parish Hall, Thorkhill Road (Tel.: Emberbrook 4495).

Maternity and Child Welfare ..	Tuesdays, 1.30 p.m.
General Medical	Fridays, 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Ante-Natal	Fridays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Immunisation and Vaccination ..	2nd Friday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

OXSHOTT : Women's Institute, Steels Lane (not on telephone).

Health Visitors' weighing and consultation session	2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

WEST MOLESEY : Hurst Cottage, Walton Road (Tel.: Molesey 2478).

Maternity and Child Welfare ..	Fridays, 1.30 p.m.
General Medical	Monday to Friday, 9.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination ..	1st Friday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Ante-Natal	Mondays, 10.45 a.m. to 12 noon.
Distribution of Welfare Foods ..	Mondays to Fridays, 2.15 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.

DISTRICT NURSES AND MIDWIVES IN THE ESHER URBAN DISTRICT

DISTRICT NURSES

Area Served *Name, Address, Telephone No.*

CLAYGATE :

Mrs. F. M. Hardy, 13, Holroyd Road, Claygate (Esher 3858).

COBHAM :

*Miss R. Wright, 9, Wyndham Avenue, Cobham (Cobham 3264).

*Miss M. Owen, 116, Anyards Road, Cobham (Cobham 3110).

ESHER :

Miss G. P. Preston-Thomas, "Oakleigh," Littleworth Road, Esher (Esher 3864).

Mrs. E. S. E. Phillips, "Myrtle Cottage," The Green, Esher (Esher 4434).

EAST AND WEST MOLESEY :

Miss M. V. Burke, 108, Molesham Way, West Molesey (Molesey 2535).

Miss B. Furber, 108, Molesham Way, West Molesey (Molesey 2535).

Miss E. Henbest, 22, Queens Road, Thames Ditton (Molesey 2535).

OXSHOTT :

*Miss A. Clement, "Cartref," Danes Hill, Oxshott (Oxshott 258).

THE DITTONS :

Mrs. C. Bell, 10, Brooklands Road, Thames Ditton (Emberbrook 4631).

MIDWIVES

ESHER :

Miss H. V. Lloyd, 1, Telegraph Lane, Claygate (Esher 4840).

EAST AND WEST MOLESEY :

Mrs. A. M. A. Harwood, 34, Merton Way, West Molesey (Molesey 2597).

*District Nurse/Midwife.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Esher.*

June, 1957.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my twenty-seventh Annual Report upon the work of your Public Health Inspectors for the year 1956.

The report is compiled in accordance with the directions contained in a memorandum from the Ministry of Health and as required by the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951.

It follows the lines of previous reports and, with one or two exceptions, is tabulated.

COMPLAINTS

The number of complaints received at these offices and attended to during the year amounted to 277 relative to the following matters :—

Absence of Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	9
Blocked Drains	...	...	...	...	...	39
Damp Walls, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	62
Defective Roofs, Gutters, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	17
Flooding of Gardens and Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	16
Insects, Flies, Beetles, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Need for Cleansing Rooms, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	16
Non-removal of Rubbish	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisance from Animals	...	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive Smells	...	...	...	...	...	25
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Verminous Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	27
Smoky Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	8
Total						<hr/> 277 <hr/>

In addition, 7 Notices were received from the Metropolitan Water Board, stating that the water supply had been withdrawn from houses for various reasons.

As each complaint or notice was received, the same was investigated with the least possible delay and dealt with as required by circumstances.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Number of houses inspected and particulars recorded (Housing Act)	8
Number of houses and premises inspected (ordinary)	538
Number of houses and premises re-inspected	1120
Number of miscellaneous visits	192
Number of visits to works in progress	263
Number of visits to bakehouses	52
Number of visits to factories	78
Number of visits to factories (routine) (re means of escape in case of fire)	64
Number of visits re food inspections	68
Number of visits re disinfection	14
Number of visits re cases of infectious disease	337
Number of visits re disinfestation	19
Number of visits re drains tested with smoke or water	32
Visits re Overcrowding	1
Visits re Food and Drugs Act, 1955	165
Visits re Milk Sampling	182
Visits re Water Sampling	11
Visits to Foodshops	811
Visits to Piggeries	20
Visits re Ice Cream	59
Visits re Caravans	8
Visits to Outworkers' premises	9
Visits re Shops Act	116
Visits re Pet Animals Act, 1951	2
Visits re conveniences on building sites	14
Visits re Certificates of Disrepair	3
Visits re Improvement Grants	21
Visits re Rag Flock and other Filling Material Act	1

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices (written)	123
Informal Notices (verbal)	86
Abatement Notices in respect of nuisances, Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	14
Abatement Notices to provide covered dustbins for house refuse, Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936	6
Formal Notices to drain buildings, Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	6
Notices before Entry, Housing Act, 1936, Section 157	15
Notice to occupier of Food Premises as to contravention of Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, 32(1)	1
Notice to provide means of escape in case of fire, Factory Act, 1937, Section 34	1
Requisition for Information, Housing Act, 1936, Section 168	1

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

It is pleasing to be able to report that no legal proceedings were necessary to be taken against owners of properties to obtain compliance with Abatement Notices served upon them to abate nuisances.

It became necessary, however, for the Council to execute work at two properties viz : — No. 1, Winters Road and No. 4, Windmill Lane, both in Long Ditton, in default of compliance by the owners with Magistrates Orders made in 1955.

In the case of the former property the owner paid the amount of £139 10s. 4d. incurred by the Council immediately on demand, but as regards the latter the amount of £134 8s. 0d. has been made a charge on the property and is being collected by way of rent at the rate of £2 18s. 7d. per month.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT:—

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Completely relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Gullies fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools emptied or cleaned	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Curbing around gullies repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Intercepted from sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools abolished and house drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

MANHOLES

New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
New covers fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inspection chamber provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

VENTILATING SHAFTS

New mica flap valve fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
F.A.I. provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

WATER CLOSETS

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pans cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Seats repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Internal walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ceiling repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

New fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

WASTE PIPES, ETC.

Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anti-syphonage pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

RAINWATER PIPES

Repaired	22
New provided	23

WATER SUPPLY

New storage tanks fixed	2
Water reinstated or laid on	9
Service pipes repaired	3
Ball valve repaired or renewed	1
Draw off taps provided	6

DUST RECEPTACLES

Provided	7
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DAMPNESS

Roofs repaired	33
Eaves gutter repaired or renewed	44
Ventilation provided under floors	1
External walls pointed	15
External walls rendered	15
House walls treated with solution	26
Sills repaired	16
Dampcourse fixed	6

PAVING, ETC.

Yard paving repaired	2
-----------------------------	---

GENERAL REPAIRS

External walls repaired	24
Windows repaired or renewed	22
House floors repaired or renewed	22
Doors repaired or renewed	15
Ranges, coppers or fireplaces repaired or renewed	13
Internal walls repaired	127
Ceilings provided	6
Ceilings repaired or renewed	18
Rooms cleansed	75
Accumulations removed	4
Sasheords renewed	16
Chimney stacks and chimney pots repaired or renewed	11
Windows made to open	9
Skirtings repaired	20
Reveals to doors and windows repointed	6
Miscellaneous	3

HOUSING

Number of houses built by the Council during 1956	33
Number in course of construction at the end of the year	83
Number of houses built by Private Enterprise during 1956	502
Number in course of construction at the end of the year	360
Number of dwellings provided by conversions during 1956	5

SLUM CLEARANCE

Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Fair progress has been made during the past year in the matter of slum clearance, a total of 14 houses being dealt with—eleven in three Clearance Areas and three as individual unfit houses as follows :—

Nos. 1—6, Bennett's Cottages, Tartar Hill, Cobham.

Nos. 6 and 7, River Hill, Cobham.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Castle Cottages, The Green, Esher.

No. 131, Hare Lane, Claygate.

"Brewery Cottage," Portsmouth Road, Cobham.

"Trixie," Palace Estate, East Molesey.

Of this number only 6 and 7, River Hill, had been demolished at the end of the year, the others being in one stage or another of the procedure as laid down by the Act.

One certificate of disrepair was applied for and issued.

FOOD

The following is a list of diseased or otherwise unsound meat and food which was surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption :—

	lbs.		lbs.
Beef	852	Kidneys	11
Chicken	42	Mutton	819
Confectionery	24	Offal	129
Cooked meat	22½	Pork	281
Dripping	71	Prunes	60
Eggs (Frozen)	28	Rabbits	91
Flour	140	Sausages	130
Fish	258½	Tripe	12
Ham	126¼		

Total : 1 ton, 8 cwt., 2 qrs., 5¼ lbs.

TINNED, BOTTLED AND OTHER FOOD :—

Beans	9 tins	Milk	4 tins
Beef	5 tins	Peas	6 tins
Beef, corned	10 tins	Soup	3 tins
Conserve	3 tins	Stewed Steak	17 tins
Fish	4 tins	Tomatoes	16 tins
Fruit	43 tins	Vegetables	1 tin
Luncheon meat	13 tins	Wheatflakes	2 pkts.

FOOD TRADE PREMISES

These premises continue to be inspected and the number of food premises in the Urban District classified under wards is as follows :—

	Claygate	Cobham	Long Ditton	West Molesey	Esher	Hinchley Wood	Oxshott	East Molesey	Thames Ditton	Total
Bakers	3	6	—	1	3	2	—	4	5	24
Butchers	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	9	6	30
Confectioners	4	14	2	3	8	2	—	15	9	57
Fishmongers	1	5	1	1	3	—	1	6	3	21
Greengrocers	5	9	2	3	5	2	—	14	7	47
Grocers	14	21	9	12	14	4	2	20	16	112
Hotels and Public Houses	5	14	5	4	11	1	2	7	11	60
Restaurants, Cafes etc.	2	9	2	5	40	1	2	14	8	83
Schools	7	7	1	—	3	1	4	8	2	33
Works Canteens	2	5	1	8	4	1	—	—	7	28
Totals	45	93	25	39	94	16	12	97	74	495

Special attention was given to the cleanliness of personnel, the prohibition of smoking, and the admittance of dogs was discouraged as much as possible. Where necessary, wash hand basins and instantaneous water heaters were installed for the provision of hot water at a suitably controlled temperature. Eighteen of the latter were installed during the year. Display cases for unwrapped food have been provided in many shops, thus preventing exposure to risk of contamination.

During the year 811 visits were made to the above food premises.

There were six licensed slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955—56

Opportunity is always taken by the Public Health Inspectors to explain the Food Hygiene Regulations to proprietors, managers, and assistants of shops, when inspections and re-inspections are made by them.

At the request of the Molesey Chamber of Commerce a lecture was given by the Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector on the Food Hygiene Regulations. Points of detail were explained and members expressed their appreciation.

At this lecture it was stated with regret that there was no specific prohibition of dogs in food premises.

The results of the samples of milk taken during the year for the purpose indicated are tabulated below : —

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Samples of raw milk submitted for the detection of Tubercle bacilli	41	41	—
Samples submitted for the Phosphatase test (obtained from retailers)	92	92	—
Samples submitted for the Phosphatase test (obtained from schools*)	25	25	—
Total	158	158	—

* Claygate J.M., Cobham C.E. Secondary Mixed, Cobham County Infants' (two samples), Cobham—Downside J.M., and Infants' (three samples) Esher C.E. J.M. (two samples), Fairmile Hatch Nursery School (six samples), Hatchford Park (six samples), Long Ditton C.E. J.M., Oxshott C.E. J.M. (two samples), West Molesey County Infants'.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949—1954

Number of Milk Distributors registered in the area ...	11
Number of premises registered as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms)	6

Licences under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949—1954, have been issued as follows : —

Dealers' Licences to sell "Sterilised" Milk	14
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	15
Supplementary Licences to sell "Sterilised" Milk ...	8
Supplementary Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk ...	9

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, have been issued as follows : —

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk ...	16
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	9

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—Section 16

The number and type of premises registered under the above Section are as follows :—

						Ice cream	Preserved meats, etc.	Total
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	—	14	14
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	17	—	17
Confectioners (Flour and Sugar)	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	9	—	9
Grocers and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	17	6	23
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	35	1	36
Newsagents and Tobacconists	...	...	...	...	...	10	—	10
Tobacconists and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	45	—	45
Works Canteen	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Public Houses and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
						145	24	169

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Sampling has been continued throughout the year, a total of 165 samples of various food and drugs having been obtained and submitted to the Council's Public Analyst.

This total represents an average of 3.01 samples per 1,000 of the population based on the Registrar General's estimated population figure of 54,700 for 1956.

The following table gives details of the samples obtained :—

						Formal	Informal
Almonds—ground	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Beer—mild	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Biscuits—chocolate home wheat	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Biscuits—shortbread	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Bone and vegetable broth	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Bronchial mixture	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	18	—
Cake mixture	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Capers—pickled	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cheese spread	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Chicken and lentils	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Chutney—tomato	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Chutney—fruit	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Chocolate spread	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cider	...	...	...	...	...	1	—

						Formal	Informal
Coconut—dessicated	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Coffee and chicory powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cordial	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Crab—dressed	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Cream—sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Curd—lemon	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Curd—orange	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Curry powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Dripping	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Doughnut—cream	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Essence—raspberry	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Fish fingers	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Flour—confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	—	14
Ginger—ground	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Glucodin	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Horlicks tablets	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jam—strawberry and gooseberry	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Jam—apple and blackcurrant	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jam—raspberry	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jelly—cream	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Jelly—cocktail fruit	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jelly—redcurrant	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Lemon cheese	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Lemon juice	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Marmalade—diabetic	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	37	4
Milk of magnesia tablets	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Mushrooms—Bavarian	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Olives—stuffed	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pastilles—sugarless	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pastry mixture	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Peel	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pie—meat	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Polony	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Salad—vegetable	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sandwich spread	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sauce—mint	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sausages—pork	...	...	...	...	...	9	—
Sausages—Vienna	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sausages—beef	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sausages—breakfast	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Saveloys	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Semolina	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Spice—pickling	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sponge mixture	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sugar—demerara	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sugar—confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tomatoes—tinned	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
						85	80

The following statement gives details of the samples reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article (F, formal. I, informal)</i>	<i>Details of Irregularity</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
7.	I. Flour—confectionery (cream doughnuts)	This sample was filled with a cream substitute.	The vendor was interviewed and agreed not to sell this article again as a cream doughnut after the new Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Section 47 (1) (6) had been explained.
49.	I. Cream—sterilised	This sample contained only 22.5% milk fat instead of a minimum of 23%.	A letter was sent to the manufacturer and his explanation was accepted.
127.	I. Bronchial mixture	This sample contained only 1.36% w/v of ammonium bicarbonate and 42% of total solid matter, whereas the quantitative particulars on the label require the presence of 1.80% of ammonium bicarbonate and about 60% of total solid matter.	The vendors were communicated with and their observations invited. They replied that stocks of this mixture had been withdrawn from sale. They wrote to the manufacturers, who investigated the matter and agreed with the report of the Public Analyst saying that there had been an error in the interpretation of the working instructions.

ICE CREAM

Forty-five samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

<i>Provisional grade</i>	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Rate % of the total number of samples taken</i>
1	31	68.88
2	7	15.56
3	7	15.56
4	—	00.00

For comparison, the years 1954 and 1955 are given below : —

Provisional grade	1954		Provisional grade	1955	
	No. of samples	Rate %		No. of samples	Rate %
1	44	86.27	1	33	78.57
2	2	03.92	2	3	07.15
3	5	09.81	3	4	09.52
4	—	00.00	4	2	04.76

NOTE.—The provisional grades which are referred to above are those introduced by the Ministry of Health. They are based on the number of organisms in the ice cream absorbing oxygen, and this is shown by the reduction of colour in methylene blue which is an aniline dye.

After incubation, the quicker the reduction of the colour the poorer the quality of the ice cream.

The four grades recommended are as follows : —

Grade 1 (best quality)	time taken to reduce methylene blue	4½ hrs. or over
Grade 2	" " " " "	" " 2½ hrs. to 4 hrs.
Grade 3	" " " " "	" " ½ hr. to 2 hrs.
Grade 4	" " " " "	" " 0 hrs.

The methylene blue test does not indicate the types of organisms present, but shows the number of organisms as a whole present in the ice cream.

It could be said to show the bacterial cleanliness of the ice cream.

The majority of shops now sell ice cream in pre-packed cartons, thus eliminating the risk of contamination from the time of manufacture to the time it is consumed.

FACTORIES

The number of visits made under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, was 144 as follows : —

29 to Bakehouses.

101 to other Factory premises.

14 to other premises in which Section 7 is enforced.

Seventeen bakehouses have mechanical power and seven are without mechanical power. There are no underground bakehouses.

The number of factories in the district with mechanical power is 205.

The number of factories in the district without mechanical power is 47.

The number of workplaces is 49.

The number of Certificates issued as to means of escape in case of fire, as provided by Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, was ten.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	29	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	205	101	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	14	14	—	—
TOTAL	266	144	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	3	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	2	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	4	4	—	4	—
TOTAL	13	13	—	12	—
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)					
					Nil

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year it was necessary to make visits to give warning to a number of traders in connection with Sunday trading.

Thirteen complaints were received as to contravention of the Act as follows : —

Selling goods on a Sunday	...	...	...	...	5
Other irregularities	...	...	...	...	8

Each complaint was investigated and the matter rectified.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The destruction of rats and mice in the district continues to be satisfactory. The majority of the infestations were of a minor type and were generally found in most parts of the area.

The routine testing of public sewers was waived this year owing to the negative results found in 1954 but will be tested in year 1957.

The contract with the Education Authority for School Canteens to be treated for fly and other insect infestations and for the destruction of rats and mice continued during the year.

Agreements with proprietors of business premises and premises other than private dwellings to the value of £360 12s. 6d. for carrying out the extermination of rats, mice and other pests, were made during the year.

Statistical details of the service relating to properties during 1956 are set out on the next page.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1957.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural			(4)	(5)
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All other (inc. Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	Agricultural
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	68	18,261	1,143	19,472	32
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey under the Act, (c) otherwise, e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose	(a) — (b) 20 (c) —	813 72 —	166 40 —	979 132 —	4 32 —
III. Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections	73	1,327	990	2,390	54
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Section II) which were found to be infested by : (a) Rats, (b) mice	Rats — Major 8 Minor	— 739	1 158	1 905	— —
	Mice — Major — Minor	— 59	— 29	— 88	— —
V. Number of infested properties (in Section IV) treated by the Local Authority	8	798	187	993	—
VI. Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments (figures given <i>where available</i>)	24	—	368	392	—
VII. Number of notices served under Section IV :— (a) Treatment (b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of a notice under Section IV of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	6	2	8	—

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises in this urban district where flock is manufactured. There are only three premises where rag flock or other filling materials is stored for use in connection with the business of upholstery, and these premises are registered.

No samples were taken during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The purpose of this Act is to regulate the sale of Pet Animals.

The prescribed fee for a licence to keep a pet shop is 10/-.

Three applications were received : one from Cobham, one from East Molesey, and one from Esher, and in each instance the Council decided, after an inspection and report, to grant a licence.

RAINFALL

Table showing rainfall in the district during 1956, taken at the Sewage Purification Works, Esher.

January	...	...	3.65 ins.	August	...	...	3.16 ins.
February	...	...	0.27 „	September	...	...	2.18 „
March	...	...	0.54 „	October	...	...	1.78 „
April	...	...	1.20 „	November	...	...	0.49 „
May	...	...	0.19 „	December	...	...	3.02 „
June	...	...	1.70 „				
July	...	...	5.18 „				
							Total 23.36 ins.

Compared with the figures for the previous year this is an increase of 4.92 inches.

Average yearly rainfall for the past five years : 24.47 inches.

This is the last Annual Report I shall make. I conclude my work as a Public Health Officer with some regret, but it is mostly with a feeling of thankfulness that I finish my career. Thankful that I have had good health. Good health is of paramount importance. Thankful that my work has been so congenial and set in very lovely districts and that I have always had helpful and kind colleagues. Forty-seven years is a long time to have been in the Local Government Service and I end by expressing my grateful thanks to the members and officials of all the Councils with whom I have been associated for everything they have done to make my work so pleasant.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD F. WHEELER,

Senior Public Health Inspector